

SPRING 2018

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





*Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni,

As you can imagine, spring is an especially busy time for our recruiters who travel around the state and beyond visiting with prospective students. We are fortunate to have many gracious alumni and friends who host receptions that enable these high schoolers and their parents to meet our faculty, administrators and student ambassadors. I am happy to report that this year's recruiting receptions have been the most well-attended I've ever seen. From Ruston to Lake Charles, Shreveport to New Orleans and all points in between, our numbers continue to grow.

There are many special events slated to take place on campus this spring as well as a long list of alumni events around the state and the country. If you are not able to visit NSU, I hope you will get involved with an alumni chapter near you. If there isn't one, I know a few people who can help start one.

One special tradition on campus will come to a close this spring with the final Buddy Bonnette Memorial Golf Tournament. Over the last 17 years, this event, which honors a legendary professor and coach, has funded an endowment that today exceeds \$100,000. This one example of how you and your engagement directly supports student scholarships.

I want to again thank you for all that you do in promoting the image of Northwestern State University. NSU is attracting more and brighter students from all walks of life and we are committed to providing a transformative personal and academic experience for them. We continue to be proactive in ways we achieve this goal and appreciate the support you provide in this mission.



*Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

My fellow alumni:

With the hectic pace at which we are all moving, it's often worth taking a moment to pause and appreciate the headway that has been made at our university in recent years. Certainly, there have been growing pains but progress is seldom without challenges. We are constantly looking ahead, anticipating the unexpected and gauging the evolving needs of our students. I recently fell into conversation with an NSU graduate who visited the campus for the first time in a decade and remarked on the positive changes he noticed, from campus improvements to the energy that is so pervasive within the university community.

There are many exciting projects on NSU's horizon, many in development through partnerships with the City of Natchitoches, with business and industry and with private donors. We continue to be innovative and aggressive in pursuing resources necessary to serve our current and future students.

Your support and engagement is deeply appreciated and I sincerely thank you for all you do to support the university we love.

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2nd Vice President...Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978
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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Doug Ireland, 1986
Matthew Vines, 2016
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BY THE NUMBERS



Spring Enrollment

9,931



2 # of January Snow Days



557 # of prospective students at recruiting receptions



247 # of victories for Coach Donald Pickett to become winningest softball coach in NSU history



7 # of new endowed scholarships created in 1st Quarter of 2018



\$35,000

Dollars raised at 3rd annual Dragon Boat Races for scholarships & alumni events

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The Swing Queens of Normal College

Carol Gene Daniel (1967) submitted this piece about her mother, Edna Ruth Hearron, who, in the absence of many male students that left Normal to serve in World War II, took matters into her hands and put together an all-girl jazz band that became a state-wide success.

In the spring of 1943, many young men from the Normal College had enlisted in the armed forces. There was a shortage of men to play music for the varied activities at the college and the go-to jazz band was no longer available for dances. Edna Ruth Hearron, a junior at the time, decided to put together an all-girl band to entertain at the varied college functions. She was a music education major and drafted several of her fellow band members to play in the jazz band. She was also a lover of Benny Goodman, as her major instrument was the clarinet. Her goal was to fashion the newly-named Swing Queens after the Benny Goodman orchestra, The Swing Kings.

Edna became the de facto band leader of the Swing Queens of Normal College. The band practiced rigorously and had many road bumps throughout the winter months. They finally landed a gig at the spring formal at the college. Edna was worried that they would not live up to the former Normal men's jazz band,



Edna Ruth Hearron

many of whom were off fighting a war. She almost became tyrannical in preparing the Queens for their gig. Edna upped the practices to 8 hours per week. This caused some members to quit to have time for their studies. These members had to be replaced, which meant auditions and more time to build a band that played together.

Finally, the day came for the gig. The band had been practicing all month and

especially the last week and late into the evening hours. Many of the girls almost missed curfew because of band practice. They were all nervous and excited. As they filed onto the stage that evening, several of the girls shook so hard they didn't know if they could play. Then, Edna stepped out in front of the band and raised her baton. There was a moment of silence. She inhaled deeply then let out a soft exhale. She waited for all the band members to follow her lead. Then the baton went down and the band did swing into a lively rendition of "Little Brown Jug." They eagerly awaited to see if anyone would get out on the dance floor. A few couples finally led the rest in a rapid jitterbug and the night was officially launched.

The band that night was phenomenal. At the end of the gig, Edna gave each girl band member a

\$1 bill and told them, "Remember forever your first paying gig... consider it a raging success! You were great." As the girls stepped out, instruments secured in their cases, they were hopeful that they might have future gigs for the music they all loved to play.

The Queens learned pieces from all the current bands and artists such as Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Harry



James, Stan Kenton, Artie Shaw, Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Tommy Dorsey, Al Hirt and many other artists. Some of their favorite songs included "String of Pearls," "Mairzy Doates," "Little Brown Jug," "I'll Be Seeing You," "It Had to be You," "Chatanooga Choo Choo," "Stardust," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "You Are My Sunshine" and many more.

The band continued to practice. They became better and more renown and the all-girl Swing Queens were in demand throughout the state of Louisiana. They played college gigs and even some private venues. They were booked for gigs in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and several other colleges across the state. They even had one gig on the gulf-coast of Mississippi.

Edna's campus advisor had told her she would graduate in the spring of 1944 as she was to have credit for forming and directing the Swing Queens. When the advisor went off to war, Edna's credits went unrecorded and she did not graduate in 1944 as she had planned. As a result, she went on to marry William A. Daniel Jr. in May of 1944. She did, however, return to Northwestern State College in the late 1950s and finished her undergraduate and graduate degrees. She always bragged about having the only undergraduate degree from Northwestern that required 199 semester hours.

Edna went on to become a choral director at Morgan City High School in 1961. She moved to a substitute position leading the Berwick High School band for the 1962 - 1963 school year. In 1963, she was commissioned to build and lead the newly-formed Patterson High School band. She also had to teach lessons for the junior high and elementary students at Patterson.

Edna Ruth Hearron Daniel was the first female documented and certified high school band director in the state of Louisiana. After building the band curriculum from scratch in Patterson, her high school band successfully marched and performed at the nearby Morgan City/Berwick Petroleum and Shrimp Festival parade. She became the ultimate Swing Queen continuously training future generations of music lovers.

Edna passed away in Natchitoches in January 1998. Subsequent to her music teaching activities she was a principal in The Daniel Agency in Morgan City.

Her daughter, Carol Gene Daniel, graduated from Northwestern State University in 1967 and went on to get her master's degree from Boston University. Gene still plays the piano and works in corporate environments in Dallas. Edna's son William A. (Bill) Daniel attended the college for several years and played

Continued on page 3.

Rescued Shreveport photo collections on exhibit through April 27

A collection of photographs that depict commerce in Shreveport 100 years ago is on exhibit at Centenary College's Meadows Museum. The century-old photographs were rescued from the trash by Edward Chopin of Shreveport, a retired educator, Northwestern State University alumnus and history buff. The collection, "A Glimpse of Shreveport from 1918," will be on exhibit through April 27.

Chopin was helping friends to pack to move out of state, cleaning out their attic and discarding unwanted items when he noticed a burlap-covered scrapbook on the trash pile.

"It was a photo album prepared by the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce in 1918," he said. Until the exhibit opening Jan. 25, they had not been viewed by the public.

"It's a glimpse of Shreveport in 1918 and was some sort of mechanism to promote the city," Chopin concluded. The pictures show working and environmental conditions and



includes information on the city's population and infrastructure in hand calligraphy.

"I do not know who the photographer was but he was extremely talented," Chopin said. "The depth of field is phenomenal. Some pictures were taken in offices and you can look through the windows and get an idea of which building the photo was taken from."

Many details reveal themselves after a first glance at a picture, he said.

"You might see workers in an industrial environment, but you can also see tools, the lack of safety equipment, children and women working and black and whites working side by side."

Chopin has always had an interest in history, photography and journalism. His mother, Ann Chopin, worked for the



Natchitoches Enterprise, the rival paper of the Natchitoches Times, and he worked there after school. One memorable event they covered was the Tennessee Gas Pipeline explosion in Natchitoches in 1965 that killed 17 people. The Chopins photographed the fireball that soared approximately 400 feet before the flow of gas was cut. The Natchitoches Times later bought the Enterprise and his mother wrote feature stories for other publications.

Chopin earned a degree in industrial education with a minor in journalism at Northwestern State in 1971 and a master's in industrial technology in 1978. He retired after teaching 46 years in public schools and at Bossier Parish Community College.

The collection at the Meadows, Chopin said, provides a glimpse at a time in history that would quickly change with industrialism.

"The unique thing about the photos is that 99 percent are interior of people working. Every photo is labeled by the photographer. For instance, the labels in a wood manufacturing company indicate it was the millworks or the accounting office. A picture of the Southern Pacific Railroad shows the ticket office. You can see dates on the calendars and read the clock as to what time of day and what month it was," Chopin said.

"A Glimpse of Shreveport" was created in conjunction with the Shreveport Historic Preservation Society and is partially underwritten by the Attaway Professorships in Civic Culture Program and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Admission to the Meadows Museum of Art is free and open to the public. Hours are 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is closed Sundays and during all school holidays. Information is available at centenary.edu/meadows or by calling (318) 869-5040.

Swing Queens from page 2

the trumpet as well as several other instruments. Bill and his wife founded Plantation Treasures in Natchitoches and Morgan City. Bill passed away in Patterson in 2015. Edna's youngest son, John "Jack" Daniel is a drummer in Austin, Texas, and plays with several bands in that area.

We hope that Edna Ruth Hearron Daniel will always be remembered for her vision and tenacity. She ultimately achieved her dream of leading others to enjoy music as much as she did. She was, to us, the original Swing Queen and Leader of the Band.



CHICOLA



COLE



DAY

NSU inducts outstanding alumni into Long Purple Line

Northwestern State University honored six graduates by inducting them into the University's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line. The 2018 inductees are Monty Chicola of Alexandria, Dr. Philip Cole of Shreveport, Linda Day of Baton Rouge, Justice James T. Genovese of Opelousas, the late Col. Randal D. Keator Sr., formerly of Shreveport, and Darryl Willis of Mountain View, California.

Honorees were honored at a luncheon on March 23 at noon in the Friedman Student Union Ballroom.

Since 1990, 125 NSU alumni have been named to the Long Purple Line.

Chicola is president of Real Vision Software based in Alexandria, a company he founded in 1992 after working as a programmer for 12 years. His company's big break came when IBM saw the advantage of having Real Vision Software's product along with IBM's product covering mid-range businesses. They were later expanded to small businesses for IBM in the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and Central America.

The company sells to businesses including banks, insurance companies, service bureaus, hospitals, government agencies, casinos, trucking firms, investment firms, manufacturers and utility companies.

He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science and accounting at NSU in 1980. Chicola was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity where he served as president. He was a member of NSU gymnastics team and the Northwestern band. Chicola is president of the NSU Alumni Association and was an advisory, non-voting member of the search committee which selected Dr. Chris Maggio to be Northwestern's president.

Cole graduated from Martin High School in Red River Parish then earned a bachelor's from Northwestern in chemistry and biology in 1970. He went on to earn his M.D. from LSU Medical School in New Orleans. Cole received a master's of health care management from the Harvard School of Public Health. He did his internship in general surgery residency

and a colon and rectal surgical fellowship at LSU Health Science Center. Cole has 36 years of private and academic surgical practice. He is professor of surgery and public health and general surgery program director for LSUHSC and previously served as chief medical officer for Christus Health in Louisiana and Southeast Texas. Cole has served as president, vice president and secretary of the Louisiana chapter of the American College of Surgery.

In his career, Cole has published more than 40 national and international presentations of academic papers and book chapters. He serves as a deacon and member of the board of directors at Broadmoor Baptist Church. Cole was a member of the board of directors for LSU Health Science Center Foundation and chairman of the Investment Committee, the board of directors of Christus Health, Louisiana and the Juvenile Justice Committee for Caddo Parish. He is a Harvard University admissions committee interviewer and is on the LSU Medical School Admissions Committee. Cole has made more than 30 international medical mission trips.

Day served as executive director of the Louisiana Association of Educators for four years. She was a teacher in Caddo Parish. Day served as director of Louisiana Drug Policy and the Office of Drug Policy in the office of Louisiana Attorney General Richard LeBlanc.

Day served as commissioner to the Education Commission of the States, received the LAE's Human and Civil Rights Trailblazer Award and was one of 76 delegates from the United States to attend the World Confederation of the Teaching Profession in Stockholm, Sweden. She was elected vice president of the National Council of State Education Associations in 1993.

Day (1967, 1978) earned her bachelor's and master's at NSU. She did additional graduate work at NSU, LSU, Centenary and Southern University.

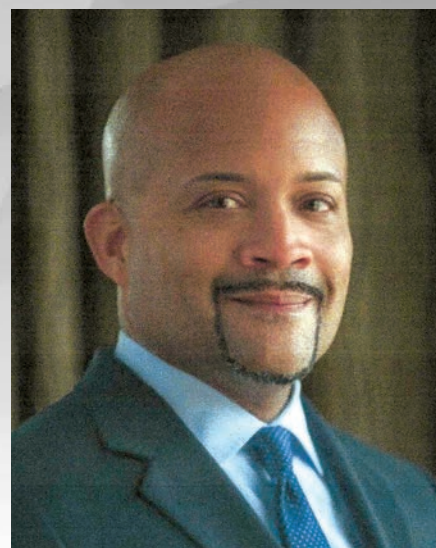
Genovese has been an associate justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court since 2017. He was a practicing attorney



KEATOR



GENOVESE



WILLIS

for 21 years before serving as a judge in the 27th Judicial District from 1995-2004 and a member of the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal from 2005-16.

A 1971 graduate of Northwestern State, Genovese has been a panelist, speaker and lecturer at conferences and continuing education seminars on recent updates, professionalism, ethics, summary judgment, writs and appeals, practices and procedures of the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeals and judicial review in the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Genovese served on the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Council Appellate Court Work Point Values Working Group and the Trial Court Committee to Review the Need for Judgeships and as chairman of its Long-Term Subcommittee. He was the Supreme Court's Appointee to the Juvenile Justice Reform Act Implementation Commission. Genovese is a board member of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society.

Keator, a highly decorated World War II veteran, earned his degree in 1939. The next year he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and after pilot training was assigned to the Philippines.

On Dec. 8, 1941, Keator and other members of the squadron intercepted Japanese fighter aircraft enroute to the Philippines. In the ensuing battle, he scored the first aerial victory in the battle of the Philippines, a feat which, along with another confirmed and a third probable kill, earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest honor.

Life Magazine chronicled the exploits in its first issue following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the Louisiana Legislature passed a resolution honoring Keator for conspicuous gallantry in action. The next year he experienced a forced landing in the Pacific, a rescue by island natives and a last minute escape from Bataan in the face of advancing Japanese forces.

After the war, he pursued an illustrious career spanning

28 years and four continents. As an engineer in Air Force laboratories, he pioneered numerous systems used in military aircraft. He rose to the rank of colonel, commanding a 200-engineer organization providing support to the operational fleet at the time of his retirement from the military. He passed away in 1981.

Willis is an accomplished global senior executive with exceptional achievements leading businesses in the oil and gas industry. He has a proven track record of delivering growth and improving profitability for enterprises ranging in size from \$1B to \$5B in the United States, Russia, Asia and Africa. He has earned the reputation as an inspiring leader who develops people and builds high-performing teams. His leadership style, passion and deep knowledge of issues make his talents transferable to companies of various size, in early or mature stage, or reorganizing with new leadership.

He was selected to lead the Deepwater Horizon claims process for BP, became spokesperson for the company and provided expert testimony before Congress and state legislatures in Florida and Louisiana.

Willis was recently named vice president of Google for Oil, Gas and Energy. He previously served as president and chief executive officer of BP Angola and as senior vice president and deputy head of subsurface for BP. In his distinguished 25-year career, his global technical and management experience includes subsurface, commercial, operations, strategy, safety, ethics and compliance, public affairs, supply chain, drilling, crisis management and technology across North America, United Kingdom, Russia, West Africa and Southeast Asia.

Willis earned a Master of Science in Management from Stanford University with concentrations in Managing Global Businesses and Social Responsibility, a Master of Science in Geology and Geophysics from the University of New Orleans and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry & Literature from the Louisiana Scholars College at Northwestern State in 1991.

Spotlights

Angela Robinson was named the new executive director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts Foundation. Robinson, an LSMSA alumna, was named to the position by the LSMSA Foundation's Board of Trustees after a nationwide search. She began her new role on Jan. 1, 2018.

A native of Mangham, Robinson graduated from LSMSA in 1993 before continuing her studies at Northwestern State University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science education in 1997 and Master of Education in gifted education from Northeast Louisiana University in 1998.

Prior to joining the Foundation staff as assistant director of development and external relations in 2016, Robinson served as the coordinator of advising support at ULM.



Rollins

Widely-acclaimed Pineville broadcaster **Lyn Rollins** have been selected as one of the 2018 recipients of the Distinguished Service

Award in Sports Journalism from the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. The honor, to be made official June 30 in Natchitoches, means Rollins will join the elite 11-person Class of 2018 being inducted in the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Rollins were selected from a 22-person pool of outstanding nominees for the state's top sports journalism honor.

The Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism is the most prestigious honor offered to sports media in the state. Recipients are chosen by the 35-member Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame selection committee based on nominees' professional accomplishments in local, state, regional and even national arenas, with leadership in the LSWA a contributing factor and three decades of work in the profession as a requirement.

Rollins, a four-time Louisiana Sports-

caster of the Year, is in his 45th year of sports broadcasting in Louisiana.

Rollins will be among the 2018 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Induction Class to be spotlighted in the annual Induction Dinner and Ceremonies on Saturday evening, June 30, at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Rollins, a 1973 Northwestern State graduate, is a protégé of the late Norm Fletcher, the Natchitoches broadcaster who won the Distinguished Service Award in 2010. He has a master's in journalism from LSU, was the Demon Sports Network play-by-play radio broadcaster from 1993-2003 and had also called games for Grambling and the Alexandria Aces minor league baseball team. He began working for Cox Sports Television in 2003 and has done game telecasts for ESPN3 and the SEC Network.

Four feature films starring character actor and voice specialist **Rhett Crosby** have been picked up for world-wide distribution on digital on-demand/streaming and DVD by TM Films Distribution and are available on Amazon, Vudu, Hulu, Roku, DVD, Walmart Streaming add many more. The films are also captioned in several foreign languages. The films, by He Said She Said Productions, are this in which Crosby has either played a lead or supporting role. They include "The Coldest Kiss," "Stealing Sunrise," "Stealing Sunrise 2: Malibu Trail" and "An Idle Mind Is the Devil's Playground."

Crosby has also been cast to play a supporting role in He Said She Said's latest movie, a period piece title "Hello, Are You There?" currently in pre-production.

Crosby attended NSU on a football scholarship from 1994-1999 and majored in journalism and had a passion for theatre. His professional work as an actor includes dozens of commercials, TV shows and films.

"I'm so thankful for the all the theater, film, radio and television training that I received from Northwestern State University and I appreciate everyone's continue love and support," he said.

Chef Manny Augello (2008) was been announced as a semifinalist for the James Beard Award, the world's most prestigious culinary award. Augello, executive chef and owner of Bread & Circus Provisions in Lafayette was recognized among a field of 20 chefs in the Best Chef: South category. Final nominees were announced March 14 and were unavailable as of press time. The 2018 James Beard Awards Gala will take place May 7 at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

"I'm grateful to be surrounded by a community supportive of my culture where I can practice my craft, and I consider myself lucky to do so at Bread & Circus Provisions with some of the most passionate and talented people in the industry," Augello said.

Born in Sicily, Augello came to Louisiana as a child. After graduating from NSU, where he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, he began working on his craft and soon took over as Executive Chef of Jolie's Louisiana Bistro in Lafayette. As a culinary activist, Augello served on the advisory board of Acadiana Food Circle as a representative for the Slow Food movement. In 2012, he was invited to appear at the esteemed James Beard House to cook and showcase his Louisiana Farm to Table cuisine. That same year he was awarded the prestigious 5 Chefs to Watch Award by Louisiana Cookin'.

In 2013 Augello launched his own product line of pickles and charcuterie under the label Bread & Circus Provisions. He opened a restaurant under the same name in 2014, which brings wood-fired Neapolitan pizza and straightforward southern Italian cooking to the Cajun table.

He was named to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity's 'Thirty Under 30' class of 2015 and was named among the Best Chefs Acadiana Profile in 2016.

The Jefferson Parish School Board selected DeSoto Parish School System Superintendent **Dr. Cade Brumley** (2002) as the next superintendent of the Jefferson Parish Public School System.

The 9-0 vote came during a special session meeting March 5 in which

Continued on page 7.

Booty Brothers of Kisatchie: Where there is a will, there is a way

Willard Booty of DeQuincy (1957) shared some memories of when he and his brothers Terry (1958) and Roland (1962) attended NSU, along with Roland's wife Johnnie Mae O'Neal (1962) and Terry's wife Betty (1962).

The boys from Kisatchie all applied for and received working scholarships and worked 25 hours per week. Willard took care of the Field House for two years and was the A-Frame dorm monitor for a year. Terry and Roland worked in the bookstore for three years for 45 cents per hour.

"This scholarship paid for our tuition, a seven-day meal ticket and our room on campus each semester," Willard said. By going to summer school, each was able to graduate in three years.

All three brothers married teachers and went to work, Willard in Calcasieu Parish, Terry in Caddo Parish and Roland in Vernon Parish after a brief stint in the Crowley area.

Combined they have seven grandchildren, which includes

four teachers, a railroad conductor, a physical therapist and a pizza business manager.

Between the brothers, their spouses and four children the family has a total of 301 years in education "thanks to Northwestern helping us."

All the family with education degrees went on to earn master's and/or master's plus.

"The three Booty brothers and their spouses (three wonderful women) have been married a total of 175 years," Willard said.

"Follow the old saying 'Where there is a will there is a way,'" Willard said. "There are many doors open today that hadn't been thought of back then. Follow your dream and doors will open for you to walk through. You must be ready to work to make these steps lead you. If you want it, you can accomplish it with the Lord's help and hard work."



Ashlock

iHeartMedia elevates Greg Ashlock

iHeartMedia, the leading audio company in America with a greater reach in the U.S. than any other media outlet, announced in December that it elevated

Northwestern State alumnus **Greg Ashlock** as the next step in the evolution of the iHeartMedia Markets Group. Ashlock, previously president of iHeartMedia Markets Group West Division who also served as the senior business leader representing the company in the West, was named president of the iHeartMedia Markets Group.

In his new role, Ashlock will manage the entire iHeartMedia Markets Group, including the company's more than 850 radio stations in over 150

markets. This consolidation under one leader will allow iHeartMedia to move quicker, be more responsive, communicate more clearly and best serve both listeners and advertisers based on each market's unique needs, according to a statement from the company.

Ashlock earned a degree in journalism at Northwestern State in 1991 and a graduate degree from the USC Annenberg School for Communications. He joined the Clear Channel Communications management staff in 2000 prior to the company's renaming of iHeartMedia and rose in ranks to become executive vice president of operations (EVPO) for iHeartMedia USA and president of iHeartMedia Southern California.

In 2015, Ashlock returned to NSU as a featured speaker during the investiture of immediate past president Dr. Jim Henderson, also a journalism

graduate. In 2016, he was honored by NSU with induction into the NSU's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line. He is married and has five children.

With over a quarter of a billion monthly listeners in the U.S. and over 122 million social followers, iHeartMedia has the largest national reach of any radio or television outlet in America. As the leader in multiplatform connections, it also serves over 150 local markets through 858 owned radio stations, and the company's radio stations and content can be heard on AM/FM, HD digital radio, satellite radio, on the Internet at iHeartRadio.com and on the company's radio station websites, on the iHeartRadio mobile app, in enhanced auto dashes, on tablets, wearables and smartphones, and on gaming consoles.

Spotlights continued from page 6.

Brumley gave a public presentation and answered questions from the public and the school board.

Brumley served as DeSoto Parish superintendent since 2012. His district has scored an A on its state report card the past two years. After being ranked 49th in the state in 2010, DeSoto is now ranked 9th among all Louisiana public school systems. DeSoto has the

largest ACT growth in the state during Brumley's time as superintendent. It's also a top ten district in the state for improving special education and minority academic outcomes. Gifted and talented student identification has increased by over 100% and out-of-school suspensions have dropped by 48%. Brumley also launched the Imagination Library, which provides a book per month for every DeSoto child from

birth until five-years-old.

Brumley has served as assistant superintendent of DeSoto Parish Schools, a principal, assistant principal, teacher, and coach in Sabine Parish, and a teacher in Caddo Parish. He earned his Doctor of Education from Stephen F. Austin State University, Master of Education from LSU-Shreveport, and Bachelors of Science from Northwestern State University.

McCann's Open Thread company provides socks to homeless shelters nationwide

A Northwestern State University graduate and entrepreneur is combining business with philanthropy to provide socks to homeless shelters around the U.S. Austin McCann's company, Open Thread, a designer sock company, will for every purchase donate a pair of long thick socks to homeless shelters in New Orleans, Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Socks are the #1 need in the homeless community, McCann said, and he hopes that his designer sock company will help bridge the gap to meet that need. Launching otsocks.com just before Christmas, McCann received immediate positive support.

"The response to the mission of Open Thread is what draws people in," McCann said. "There are many fantastic sock companies out there, but very few who give back in the way Open Thread does. The customers love the idea that for every sock pair purchased a long thick pair goes to a homeless shelter in a city of their choosing."

Within the first 24 hours of launch, McCann recorded sales every 5-15 minutes, skyrocketing social media shares and customers from more than 20 states. He was also approached by blogs in New Orleans and Los Angeles about the initiative and has partnered with social leaders such as Saints players Cameron Jordan and Craig Robertson and Pelicans player Darrius Miller.

McCann is a native of New Orleans who earned a degree in business administration with a minor in liberal arts from the Louisiana Scholars' College in 2013. He wrote his senior thesis on how to develop a small business into a large company and now finds himself putting everything he learned into practice. He later earned a master's in business at Loyola University.

At NSU, McCann was a member of the Student Activities Board, a Freshman Connector and president of Theta Chi Fraternity, among other activities. McCann said the life skills he learned at NSU are priceless.

"While at Northwestern I was encouraged to get a summer internship away from home, so I picked San Francisco. When I was there I learned San Francisco ranked #2 in the highest homeless population in the country. Everywhere I went I saw a homeless person. The lack of attention and the amount of help they needed kept pulling at my heart so I reached out to a local homeless shelter in the city and volunteered as much as I could that summer."

This summer, McCann traveled to Los Angeles to volunteer at shelters there.

"I kept going to different cities and seeing the homeless community struggling and I just wanted to do my part," he said. "The response from



McCann

the homeless community when they receive anything is with a grateful heart. From a jacket to a smile they are normally grateful."

McCann, who has had a longtime affinity for designer socks, designed his first collection with a worldly theme.

Designs for McCann's next collection, titled "Controlled Chaos," are already underway and will be available soon. The company also plans to host its first Rock the Socks Giveaway by sending socks and holding events in each of its five cities.

McCann named his company with a glass half empty/half full concept.

"Open Thread represents torn socks that most homeless individuals have on their feet if any socks at all, or it can represent an open thread as an opportunity or beginning to a sock being created. My company is aware of the reality (torn socks), and want to provide an opportunity (warm thick socks) for the homeless community."

For more information or to shop Open Thread online, visit otsocks.com.

Anonymous donation to CHC creates Lemée-Raggio award

The Louisiana Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University has received a donation from an anonymous donor to establish a scholarship in memory of Dr. Raymond A. Lemée of Vernon, Texas, and Mavis Cade Raggio of Lake Charles.

Lemée's ancestors were among the first settlers of Louisiana and helped found Natchitoches. He moved to Texas when he was 10 years old and earned his undergraduate degree at SMU and completed medical training at Baylor Medical College.

Lemée was called into active duty in the U.S. Army in 1940. During World War II, he was attached to the surgeon's section of 8th Army Headquarters and was assigned to an administrative post with the Philippine guerillas. After the liberation of the Philippines, Lemée was base surgeon for U.S. troops on the island of Mindoro. Following the war, he remained in the Army Reserves for more than a decade.

Upon returning home, Lemée became a general practitioner in Vernon, Texas, developing a special interest in heart disease and the use of telescopes in medicine.

Raggio was an alumna of Northwestern State University where she was a member of Delta Zeta sorority and the Purple Jackets. She was an active member of the Junior League of Lake Charles, serving on the committee which established the Lake Charles Symphony in 1956. She had a passion for historical preservation and was past president of the Southwest Louisiana Historical Association. In 1988, she was recipient of the Chamber/Southwest Civic Service Award. In 2005, Raggio received the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in Community Service Award and the Women in American History Project Award.

For more information on the scholarship, contact the Creole Heritage Center at (318) 357-6685.

Denise Lewis Patrick discusses writing and creativity during Louisiana visit

Author Denise Lewis Patrick, standing right, spoke to fifth grade students at Vernon Middle School about writing and read from her work. She was accompanied by NSU First Lady Jennifer Maggio, standing left, along with NSU lab school actors Bess Stewart, Sydni Jones and Victoria Wiggins, kneeling and NSU Theatre students Madeline Monlezun, kneeling, and Taijha Silas, seated far right.

Author, editor, teacher Denise Lewis Patrick, a 1977 graduate of Northwestern State, spent a week visiting Louisiana from her home in New Jersey and was a guest lecturer and classroom visitor at elementary schools in the area and in NSU communications classes.

Patrick, accompanied by her mother, longtime educator Edwina Lewis, visited three Leesville Elementary Schools to talk about writing with fourth and fifth graders and read from her work. The elementary school presentations were coordinated by Anna MacDonald, library associate at NSU's Leesville campus, and Martha Koury, Leesville campus director, and included an introductory skit based on one of Lewis's books with three actors from NSU lab schools and two from NSU's Department of Theatre and Dance, under the direction

of NSU Elementary Lab teacher Lisa Wiggins and Dr. Vicki Parrish, professor of theatre. Performers were sixth grader Victoria Wiggins and fifth graders Bess Stewart and Sydni Jones with NSU students Taijha Silas of Pineville and Madeline Monlezun of Covington in a skit based on "Meet Cecile," the first in the Cecile series of Patrick's popular American Girl books.

As part of the elementary school visits, NSU First Lady Jennifer Maggio delivered boxes of books to each school. The books were collected during Maggio's Forks Up for Literacy book drive in which she collected more than 4,200 books for schools, daycares and youth centers in the region.

Patrick's visit concluded with a lecture for the public in Magale Recital Hall, along with a book signing and reception.

Col. Wilkins, former track athlete, visits Northwestern State

Col. Ronald Wilkins (1989) stopped by the office of NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio a few weeks ago to visit with his old friend and former track and field teammate. Wilkins was en route to Birmingham, Alabama, to watch his son Joshua, also a track athlete at NSU, compete in the Southland Conference Indoor Championships. Like Maggio, the Colfax native was a top Louisiana distance runner recruited by former NSU Track and Field Coach Leon Johnson and attended NSU on a four-year scholarship.

Wilkins, who earned an undergraduate degree in business and finance, joined the NSU ROTC program during his junior year and was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon his graduation in May 1989. Within 17 months, he was deployed to Iraq for Operation Desert Storm. Upon his return he spent three years working in banking and finance in Dallas while still active with the Louisiana National Guard. In 1996, he transitioned to the Texas Guard and in 2004, went to Army National Guard Bureau and worked at the Pentagon on and off for several years. He earned a master's degree in business administration at Trident University currently works as director for Army Integration for the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence ISR Operations. He is responsible for the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning into Army programs of record for the Army Warfare Cross Functional Team.

During his nearly 30-year career, Wilkins has worked as program manager for several important operations and earned numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star. A top priority in his leadership is mentoring others, bridging gaps and building relationships.

"I tell people to be uncommon. Do what others won't do. Go above and



NSU President Chris Maggio & Col. Ronald Wilkins

beyond the call of duty," he said. "My goal is to inspire, empower, motivate, connect and give back."

Wilkins said he is not at all surprised that Maggio was named university president, adding that his former teammate "is still the same Chris and called me by my old track nickname, Ronnie G."

He also cited another important mentor, Coach Murrel "Doak" Walker (1955), who was his coach and math

Continued on page 11.

NSU celebrates the life of a legend with a final memorial golf tournament

After many years of fun for a cause, the grand final of the Buddy Bonnette Memorial Golf Tournament will take place Saturday, May 19 at Northwestern Hills Golf Course. The final tournament brings a flood of nostalgia to the family, friends and former students of Coach Bonnette, who fondly remember their mentor and his contributions to their personal, academic and athletic development. All are invited back to NSU for the final tournament.

The tournament was originally organized in 2001 as a fund raiser to support the Dr. A.R. "Buddy" Bonnette Endowed Scholarship created in 1998 to benefit NSU students in the Department of Health and Human Performance who aspired to be teachers and coaches like Bonnette. Proceeds also benefitted NSU's men's and women's basketball teams. After Bonnette's death, the tournament continued to flourish for 17 years. With this final event, the value of the endowed scholarship will exceed \$100,000.

According to Bonnette's son Randy Bonnette, the very first tournament took place on May 28, 2001, his parents' 50th wedding anniversary and the couple restated their vows that day during lunch. Dr. Vera Roberson Bonnette had a long career as a teacher, principal and clinical professor in the North Louisiana National Reading Improvement Program for Winn, Natchitoches and Ouachita parishes and retired as

coordinator of academic skills at NSU. She passed away in 2015.

Another anecdote tells of a misprint on the first tournament's promotional flyer, which read "Buddy Bonnette Memorial Tournament," which is the current title.

According to Randy, "Dad was alive and participated in the tournament. The flyer should have read 'Buddy Bonnette Memorial Day Tournament.' But, the flier went out, and then mom and we siblings started getting calls of shock and condolences that dad had died. That was actually a humorous incident. However, it foreshadowed dad's passing seven months later, January 2, 2002, thus he never made it to another event. Yet, mom and his children continued to carry the torch until this Grand Finale in 2018, just like dad would have wanted and expected us to."

This year's tournament will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 19 at the NSU Rec Complex. The fee is \$100 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart and lunch. Sponsoring tees are \$50. Donations are welcome.

Dr. Allen R. "Buddy" Bonnette earned a bachelor's and masters at Northwestern and a doctorate at LSU. He was a coach at Robeline High, Neville High and Springhill High before going to LSU as an assistant basketball coach from 1960 until 1963. In 1963, he joined the faculty at Northwestern in the Depart-



Organizers encouraged the public to participate in the first annual Buddy Bonnette Memorial Golf Tournament in 2001, an event planned to raise fund for NSU Athletics. From left are Jennifer Graf, then assistant women's basketball coach; Coach Buddy Bonnette, Chris Maggio, then director of Alumni Affairs, and Mike McConathy, head men's basketball coach.

ment of Health and Physical Education where he taught for 23 years and was director of the graduate program. Bonnette retired as a full-time faculty member in 1986, but taught water safety classes part-time for 12 more years.

Bonnette was given the title of "professor emeritus" in 1995. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from Phi Epsilon Kappa, the Distinguished Faculty Chair from the College of Education, the Mayors' Award from the City of Natchitoches and the Outstanding Faculty Award. Bonnette was also recognized by the LSU Department of Kinesiology as one of the initial recipients of its Legend of LSU Doctoral Program Awards.

Many of Bonnette's former students established The Dr. A.R. "Buddy" Bonnette Endowed Scholarship in his honor to benefit students in the Department of Health and Human Performance. He was inducted into the NSU Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, in 2001.

To register for the final Buddy Bonnette Memorial Golf Tournament or to contribute to the Bonnette Endowed Scholarship, call (318) 357-4414 or visit northwesternalumni.com.



The Bonnette family witnessed the restatement of vows that Coach Buddy and Mrs. Vera Bonnette made during the inaugural tournament, which took place on their 50th wedding anniversary, May 28, 2001.

Chris Roper Tournament continues to be a reunion for friends, teammates

The 36th annual Chris Roper Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, April 28 at Northwestern Hills, continuing the tradition of honoring the memory of an accomplished NSU student-athlete. Proceeds from the tournament fund two scholarships that provide \$1,500 per semester for two students majoring in Health and Human Performance.

Roper was a native of Camden, Arkansas. As a senior at NSU, he was a top golfer on the 1981 Demon Squad and a member of the Trans-American All-Conference team, placing ninth at the league tournament. He lost his life a traffic accident over Christmas break in 1982.

The annual tournament has for years been a time for Chris's parents, Rick and Mary Roper, to gather with friends to honor their son.

"One really neat thing is that all four of Chris's roommates will come back



every year," Mary Roper said. "It's been like a reunion for everybody."

The weekend will begin with a kick-off party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Antoon's Patio on the By-Pass. Saturday's events will begin with check-in at 8 a.m. and tee-off at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided following the awards at the Rec Complex.

Participants staying the weekend are encouraged to make reservations at Comfort Suites at I-49 where special rates are available for those checking in for the Chris Roper Tournament. Early reservations are recommended.

Entry for the four-person scramble is \$75 per player, which includes cart, lunch, beverages and green fees. Sponsorships are available at the \$500, \$250 and \$50 levels. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place teams, as well as for Closest to the Hole and Longest Drive.

"This has been a special event that for years has brought old friends together to celebrate Chris's life doing something that he loved," said NSU Development Officer Jill Bankston. "We look forward to another outstanding tournament weekend."

For information on the tournament or to register, contact Hall Adams at (318) 357-6300 or adamsh@nsula.edu.

Northwestern Bookstore transformation is underway

Northwestern State University announced the beginning of a transition of bookstore operators that began in February when Barnes & Noble ceased operations in its Friedman Student Union location in Natchitoches and the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health in Shreveport.

The Follett Higher Education Group reopened both stores in their existing locations the following week.

Beginning in March, an extensive interior and exterior renovation began at the 912 University Parkway building, which Follett will open as an 8,000 square foot official NSU Campus Store in time for the Fall 2018 semester. The 912 University Parkway property was recently acquired by the NSU Foundation and will become a one-stop shop for class and campus living following renovations.

"The NSU Foundation is thrilled to partner with Follett to create a truly dynamic NSU Campus Store experience for our students, faculty, alumni, staff and the central Louisiana community," said Drake Owens, assistant vice president of External Affairs and executive director of the NSU Foundation. "Follett's focus is on enhancing the NSU experience, so students can expect a campus store that delivers great products, promotes affordable course material options, welcomes the community and celebrates the campus spirit."

The Follett bookstore at the Shreveport Nursing and Allied Health campus will move from its current location to an area adjacent to Café DeMon at a later date.

Wilkins continued from page 9.

teacher at Grant High School. Walker never mentioned to Wilkins that he was an outstanding basketball and track student-athlete at NSU and a member of the NSU's N Club Hall of Fame until after Wilkins has visited NSU.

Wilkins and his wife also have 16 year-old daughter who is also an athlete. He still has family in Colfax and enjoys visiting NSU when he can and on his last visit discovered that he and his son each made the cover of NSU's track and field

media guide 30 years apart. Joshua will graduate in December. At the SLC Indoor Championships his father attended, he earned a bronze medal in the one-mile.

"He is breaking all my records," Wilkins said.

He stressed the importance of relationships in his success and his desire to positively impact others.

"There are opportunities for everybody, but it took a lot of people along the way."

Robert Crew Scholarship honors long-time administrator



R Robert Crew's love of photography will translate into a scholarship to benefit students in Northwestern State University's Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts. The legacy of the career educator and administrator, who passed away Jan. 14, will live on through a gift that acknowledges his long-time love of Northwestern State and its students.

"Northwestern was such an important part of our lives," said Jacque Crew, his wife of 52 years. "Robert's grandfather was the registrar there and we went to school there. Robert had always talked about establishing a scholarship in his grandfather's name. I thought this would be a good way to honor Robert."

Mr. Crew retired as executive assistant to the president of NSU in 2013. Before his appointment to the administrative position at Northwestern in 1997, Crew held several leadership roles in the Louisiana State Department of Education for 27 years. He had served for a number of years as director of the department's Bureau of Higher Education, Teacher Certification and Continuing Education. Mr. Crew, who had also held the positions of deputy superintendent of education and acting deputy superintendent, served on numerous evaluation teams for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A Natchitoches native, Mr. Crew earned a bachelor's degree at NSU in 1965 and a master's in education in 1968 and began his career as an educator in classrooms in Caddo and St. Mary parishes. Mr. Crew was a member of NSU's Hall of Distinguished Educators and twice received the university's Nth Degree, which recognized meritorious service to the university and/or the community. Upon his retirement, the School of Creative and Performing Arts named

the photography studio in his honor.

A widely-acclaimed photographer for more than four decades, Crew photographed hundreds of weddings and captured numerous interesting characters and significant architectural and historic sites. He was the official photographer for two gubernatorial inaugurations in Louisiana. Crew's photographs are included in a number of private collections and have been displayed in exhibits across the state.

"Robert loved taking pictures of children. Later he got into landscape photography, particularly historic landscapes and pictures of buildings and cemeteries," Mrs. Crew said. "He had an eye for seeing interesting things. He loved to take pictures and we have boxes of pictures of NSU students and activities."

The Robert G. Crew Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to a student from Louisiana majoring in digital media/journalism who maintains a 2.5 grade point average. It will be awarded annually and can be renewed.

"We thought it would be appropriate to designate the scholarship to the New Media program, since they named the photo studio in his honor," Mrs. Crew said. "Robert would be pleased to carry on that legacy with the department."

To contribute to Robert G. Crew Scholarship and for information on other scholarships for NSU students, visit northwesternalumni.com or call (318) 357-4414.

Thomas to aspiring journalists: Work hard and take initiative

Javonti Thomas, who graduated from Northwestern State University in December, made a contribution to the NSU Foundation to benefit students in the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts. From left are Dr. Paula Furr, department head; NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow, Thomas and Student Media Coordinator Kenneth Burns. Thomas, 21, is a content producer at KSLA in Shreveport. He visited a Comm 2530 class to talk about his professional experiences and the value of hard work.

As an undergraduate, Thomas, a Dean's List student, was involved with President's Leadership Program, KNWD, NSU-



TV, Student Government Association and Potpourri yearbook. He also wrote for the Natchitoches Parish Journal and Metro Leader. He graduated with honors in December.

Prep Fitness Scholarships target CIS, HHP out-of-state students

A Natchitoches entrepreneur's combined interest in fitness and computers inspired him to create four scholarships for Northwestern State University students who are motivated to earn a degree but face financial hurdles. Brian Hicks, owner of Prep Fitness LA, created an endowed scholarship fund through the NSU Foundation that will help two students majoring in health and exercise science and two students majoring in computer information systems. Two of the four scholarships will be awarded to out-of-state students.

The scholarships will be awarded to sophomore, junior or senior students who maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average and complete a project



for Prep Fitness. Hicks said he hopes that opening criteria to out-of-state students will serve as a recruiting tool for the university.

From left are NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Dr. Kimberly McCalister, dean of the College of Education and Human Development; Hicks, NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, dean of the College of Business and Technology; Dr. John Dollar, director of the Department of Health and Human Performance, and Curtis Penrod, director of the Computer Information Systems program.

McDaniel seeks to support people of color pursuing STEM careers

Megan McDaniel returned to her alma mater recently to meet with several individuals who were important mentors to her during her undergraduate years at Northwestern State University and announce the creation of an endowed scholarship to benefit minority students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Megan Elizabeth McDaniel STEM Scholarship will be awarded to a junior or senior majoring in a STEM field with preference to a student in biology or chemistry. McDaniel, a Natchitoches native, is a 2013 graduate of NSU where she earned undergraduate degrees in biology with a biomedical concentration and in general studies with a computer science concentration. She was also a member of more than 10 student organizations, engaged in and out of the classroom.

After earning two degrees at NSU, McDaniel enrolled in a chemical engineering program where she noticed she was one of the minorities in the program. As a young professional on her first job in the oil and gas industry, she said she was one of five women and one of two African Americans in her facility. She hopes the scholarship will help young students feel confident when they may be one of few people of color in STEM classes and she hopes they will be encouraged to see more minorities working in STEM professions.



Megan McDaniel was joined at the scholarship announcement a few of the mentors who impacted her during her student days at NSU. From left are Reatha Cox, director of First Year Experience and Leadership Development; Dr. Francene LeMoine, director of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences; her mother Margaret McDaniel, McDaniel, NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Director of Student Activities Yonna Pasch and Development Officer Jill Bankston.

Line 39 Sisters establish Ten Degrees Scholarship for hometown girls

Members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority created a scholarship to benefit non-traditional students at Northwestern State University.

The Ten Degrees of Excellence Scholarship targets students from Shreveport, Haughton, Natchitoches, Gramercy, Litcher, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Bernice or Puerto Rico who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in any major.

Applicants must be at least 21 years of age.

The 10 women are Rakeya Walker, Nikita Glover Lewis, Belmari Ross, Jessica McConathy Beseau, Thimeka Carr, JuanKeitha Jones, Kyone Johnson Cash, Karissa Johnson, L'Oreal Boutté and Clark.

The Ten Degrees of Excellence Scholarship is not just for women, but for all non-traditional students that are residents of

the hometowns of the women on Line 39 of the Xi Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

"Line 39 would like to provide financial support to those that have made the brave decision to pursue an education, regardless of age," Clark said.

Information on scholarships available through the NSU Foundation is available at northwesternalumni.com.



Demon receiver Qayshon Thurman, punter Parker Pastorello and receiver Marquisian Chapman talked to students at the NSU Elementary Lab School during Chris Waddell Day.

Demons get playful delivering encouragement on Chris Waddell Day

When the Northwestern State football team comes to play, it's not always wearing shoulder pads and helmets.

A few days before spring practice, the Demons weren't competing, they were just horsing around while sharing positive messages on the 14th Annual Chris Waddell Day, participating in a series of community activities.

The players and coaches visited young students at NSU Elementary Lab School, St. Mary's School, L.P. Vaughn Elementary and Weaver Elementary in Natchitoches, and spent time at the local Boys & Girls Club. At each stop, they shared encouragement and advice while spending time thinking and acting like youngsters.

At the NSU E-Lab, another offensive lineman, Jaylen Haydel, found himself in an arm wrestling contest with a fourth-grader – and didn't win.

"It was very fun. I had to take off my jacket, show him a little muscle, but he had some muscle too. He was so strong, he just won. He really won," smiled Haydel. "Just knowing he has a lot of great things ahead of him, it felt great to spend time with him and the other kids."

Junior defensive end Desmond Prejean said he and teammates eagerly anticipate Waddell Day.

"I've been here three years now, and I love it every time. The kids have fun with us playing around, we take pictures and it's a great time for them and for us," he said.

Head coach Brad Laird, who was defensive coordinator when Waddell died from a heart condition the evening before 2004 spring practice was to begin, shared reflections of the now iconic former Demon walk-on from Holy Cross in

New Orleans.

"March 1 is always a special day for our young men, and also for the young men and women we hopefully can influence in a positive way. That's what Chris Waddell did, and that's why we do what we do," said Laird. "It's our goal to have the same influence on these kids, to emphasize it's important to do the right thing."

Laird was in touch with Waddell's mother, Celeste, before this year's activities. Now a Dallas resident, the

"Strongest woman I've ever met," said Laird. "To see what she's done from that day moving forward, that has influenced Northwestern State football in such a positive way, just shows the type of kid Chris was, and how he was raised. That's special."

His cousin, Jourdan Waddell, is a sophomore at NSU and took part in the visit to the Boys & Girls Club wrapping up the day's schedule. She gave an inspiring talk to the children.

The experience is special for all involved – Demon players and coaches, the youngsters, and their teachers and administrators. It is very meaningful for new defensive line coach LeDell Love, a defensive end at NSU from 2007-10 who played with teammates of Waddell's.

"I remember walking in Walmart months later, and a little boy looked at his father, and said, 'Daddy, there's LeDell Love, he's a Northwestern State football player. You just don't know which kid or how many you might impact, just talking about a few key points or shooting basketball, but when they remember you, hopefully you've had a positive influence.'"

NSU hires Dallas Baptist coaches as co-head soccer coaches

Dallas Baptist assistant coaches Jess and Anna Jobe have been hired as co-head coaches of the Northwestern State soccer program.

The hires must be approved by the Louisiana Board of Supervisors, of which Northwestern State is a member.

Jess Jobe has served on the NCAA Division II Patriots' coaching staff for the past seven seasons, the last five as the associate head coach.

Anna Jobe spent this past season as a volunteer assistant at DBU after coaching on Baylor's staff for four seasons, two as a full-time assistant in charge of goalkeepers.

Under Louisiana nepotism law, relatives on a coaching staff must be named co-head coaches.

DBU has been a Top 25 program in each of the last seven years, qualifying for six D-II NCAA Tournaments with an 108-35-11 mark in that span under head coach Michelle Lenard.

The Patriots have two regional championship appearances (Sweet 16), winning the title and advancing to the national quarterfinals in 2015.

Jess Jobe helped guide the Patriots to four conference regular season titles and four league tournament titles (2011, 2015, 2016, 2017) with Anna being involved in the final one.

"The community and core values



Anna Jobe

at NSU and within the athletic department are perfect matches for us," Jess Jobe said. "We believe we can build something really special here in Natchitoches and elevate the women's soccer program to new heights in the upcoming seasons. NSU provides a fantastic platform for us as coaches to invest in our student-athletes' development on the soccer field, academic success, and personal growth for many years to come." During Anna Jobe's stint at Baylor, the Bears posted winning records all four seasons and winning conference records in Jobe's two seasons as a full-time assistant. Baylor



Jess Jobe

reached the Big 12 Tournament all four seasons.

"I am extremely honored and grateful for this opportunity," Anna Jobe said. "Jess and I are really excited to begin building and investing in this program and in the lives of our student-athletes."

The NSU soccer program leads current Southland Conference members with four league tournament championships, the last in 2005. NSU was the first college program in Louisiana to appear in the NCAA Tournament (2000) and has three national postseason appearances.

Endowment targets track and field student-athletes

Northwestern State and its track and field program were part of the foundation that enabled Dr. Maury Dennis to become a highly-regarded professor and research scientist at Texas A&M.

So shortly after retiring, the 1964 Northwestern State College graduate and his wife, have decided to make a deferred gift to the NSU Athletics Department, in the form of an endowed scholarship in their estate to benefit NSU track and field.

Dennis earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's in physical education from Northwestern two years later. He completed doctoral studies in 1971 at Florida State, where he was an assistant professor for five years.

In 1977, he joined the health and kinesiology faculty at Texas A&M, serving as coordinator of the safety education program for 29 years until 2006, and as director for the Center for Alcohol and Drug Education Studies there for 17 years until 2014. Dennis was a senior research scientist at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute from 2007-15.

To inquire about the Perpetually Purple program, contact Greg Burke (burkeg@nsula.edu, 318-357-5251), or Taitano (blounth@nsula.edu, 318-357-4278). Information is also available on the NSUDemons.com website.

"I was the first in my family to go to college. My high school coach went to NSC and influenced me to go there. NSC met all my academic needs and allowed me to run track, be in Blue Key, and other organizations. NSC had a great early influence on my life and so I am grateful that my wife (also an NSC graduate) and I can provide an endowment."

—Dr. Maury Dennis

Ellis: Cherish the opportunity you have and to pay it forward once you leave NSU

The best kind of peer pressure, from a fellow Demon he has never met, inspired former Northwestern State football player Pete Ellis to do something he wishes he had done long ago.

Ellis, a fullback on the Demons' 1988 Southland Conference championship team, recently made a \$10,500 donation to establish the Pete Ellis Football Scholarship.

It's the latest in a series of Perpetually Purple scholarship endowments, many created by former NSU student-athletes. Ellis, a native of Bryan, Texas, was a four-year letterman for the Demons from 1986-89 under coach Sam Goodwin, and led the 1989 team with 454 yards rushing.

The inspiration for his gift came from a Demon who starred in Turpin Stadium much more recently. David Pittman, a 2005 All-America cornerback for NSU and a business graduate who played in the NFL for Baltimore and Pittsburgh, created a scholarship late last year.

Ellis, who regularly visits NSUDemons.com, saw the announcement of Pittman's self-funded football scholarship. He reflected and drew on all that he learned as a football student-athlete and as an NSU student and how it has impacted his life on all levels.

"It is important to give back to something that's given so much to me," said Ellis, who hopes that his gesture, like Pittman's did for him, spurs others to contribute to his scholarship and/or establish one of their own.

Ellis, now living in Chicago, has worked in the payment

processing business for 30 years that included a 2 1/2-year stint in Prague, Czech Republic. The job has provided him the opportunity to travel all around the world. Among his favorite and more memorable locales visited are some of the smaller towns in Italy, Hong Kong, Moscow and Brazil.

His wife, Leilani, was born in Guam and grew up in Iowa, so she deals with Chicago's winters better than her husband, who hopes to come home to Texas in the next year or two. Back in the neighborhood, he looks forward to being even more engaged with NSU.

As he reflected on his Demon days, Ellis wanted to pass along a message to current athletes at NSU and those who have graduated in recent years.

"Had I started doing this 30 years ago, how much of a difference could I have made over the past years?" he said. "It's important for today's athletes to cherish the opportunity they have and to pay it forward once they leave NSU so that others who follow them have the same, or an even better, experience."

Gifts like scholarship endowments by Ellis and Pittman provide vital, continuing support to NSU Athletics. The goal is to grow the DUF endowment, through outright donations or deferred gifts, over the next five years from the nearly \$2 million current level to over \$5 million. It has increased by almost \$500,000 in the last three years. The program is separate from the efforts to supplement the annual budget for the athletics program with donations, corporate partnerships and special fund-raising events.

III NORTHWESTERN STATE Alumni ASSOCIATION

Join us at an event near you!

April 5	Northwest LA Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Savoies, The Catering Place	nsunwla18.eventbrite.com
6	Austin, TX Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Shoal Creek Saloon	nsuatx18.eventbrite.com
7	Houston, TX Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Rajin' Cajun on Westheimer	nsuhou18.eventbrite.com
12	East Baton Rouge Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Magnolia Mound Plantation	nsuebr18.eventbrite.com
13-14	Natchitoches After Hours at Jazzfest	6 pm	Natchitoches Downtown Riverbank	nsunat18.eventbrite.com
19	CenLA Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Spirits Food & Friends	nsucenla18.eventbrite.com
20	Dallas Fort Worth Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Home of Jill Morrison	nsudfw18.eventbrite.com
26	New Orleans Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Bobby Hebert's Cajun Cannon	nsunola18.eventbrite.com
May 3	West Baton Rouge Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Home of Virginia and Andre Monceret	nsuwbr18.eventbrite.com
5	Southwest LA Alumni After Hours	3 pm	Prien Lake Park	nsuswla18.eventbrite.com
4	Lafayette Alumni After Hours	6 pm	Ruffino's on the River	nsulaf18.eventbrite.com
19	Atlanta, GA Crawfish Boil	1 pm	Henry's Louisiana Grill, Ackworth, GA	nsuatl18.eventbrite.com
June 10	Washington DC Crawfish Boil	12 pm	Fort Hunt, Alexandria, VA	nsudc18.eventbrite.com

Guess Who



Back in the 80s, Coach Buddy Bonnette wrote a book on basketball skills and used the players pictured here with illustrations. Can you name them?
Email jacksonl@nsula.edu with the correct answers.



Answers to winter 2018
Guess Who: As the NSU rowing crew prepared for competition in 2007, three Novice men warmed up for practice. They were Justin Lonidier, Chris Moon and Kenny Watson.

Looking Back



"The best adjective I can use to describe this facility is magnificent," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb when he cut the ribbon during opening ceremonies of the Wellness, Recreation and Activities Center in August 2005. "There is something here for all of us, but this is all about students."

By the time you read this, the WRAC will have been renamed in memory of Dr. Webb in ceremonies scheduled for March 20, 2018, on what would have been his 75th birthday.

**Northwestern State University's largest spirit group needs your help.
The Spirit of Northwestern is raising funds for 350 new uniforms.**

Total cost is \$183,000. The band has currently raised \$65,000 dollars toward the uniforms and administrators plan to use a combination of privately raised money and state money to pay for the uniforms.

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your payment. If alums would like to pay via web instead of envelope, they can still make donations via our crowd funding link.

<https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/NSUBAND>

Small donations are welcomed and encouraged!
Find out more and donate here: <http://igfn.us/vf/NSUBAND>



- 1938 – Maude Carnegie, May 12, 2012, Benton
- 1940 – Mary Maggio Thompson-Willis, Jan. 24, 2018, Houston
- 1943 – Gerard Thomas Jr., Feb. 10, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1943 – Edith Kuhn Whitehead, Apr. 22, 2015, Karnack, Texas
- 1947 – Floy M. Smith, Apr. 7, 2017, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 1952 – George "Sonny" Pharis, Sept. 9, 2017, Alexandria
- 1952, 1979 – Nelwyn Boydston Poole, Feb. 15, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1953 – Bessie Bel Watson, Nov. 10, 2017, Decatur, Texas
- 1954 – Martha Leach Sanderson, Jan. 6, 2018, Tampa, Florida
- 1954 – Col. (Ret.) Gerald Young, Oct. 21, 2017, Gonzales
- 1955, 1959 – Dr. B.L. "Buddy" Shaw, Jan. 18, 2018, Shreveport
- 1956 – George McConathy, Oct. 24, 2016, Gibsland
- 1957 – Alice Hulls Andreyk, Nov. 8, 2017, Sulphur
- 1957 – Sara Haynes Sanders, Feb. 15, 2018, Shreveport
- 1957 – Dorothy Diane Forbes Kaufman, June 6, 2017, Baton Rouge
- 1958 – Charles Hennigan, Dec. 20, 2017, Humble, Texas
- 1960 – Carolyn Penney Lofton, May 25, 2017, Arlington, Texas
- 1962 – Carolyn Boydston Masson, July 14, 2017, Cloutierville
- 1962 – Dr. Johanna Huggans, Nov. 1, 2017, Buda, Texas
- 1963 – Donna Fay Ritchie Luhks, Feb. 13, 2018, Dallas
- 1965, 1968 – Robert Crew, Jan. 14, 2018, Shreveport
- 1969 – Daisy Marguerite Prudhomme, Feb. 12, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1973 – Jeanette V. Miller, Jan. 16, 2018, Negreet
- 1976 – Wilma Jean Reich, Jan. 3, 2018, Haughton
- 1977 – Ronald Trent Gallerson, March 2015, Gonzales
- 1978 – Wayne Bostick, Jan. 12, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1982 – Byron Todd Landon, Dec. 17, 2017, Norfolk, Virginia
- 1982 – Shirley Ackel Scott, Jan. 19, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1992 – James Rex "Kip" Fair, Jan. 7, 2018, Natchitoches
- 2003 – Marlene Bradley Carter, Feb. 5, 2018, Natchitoches
- Henry Rachal Sr., Jan. 21, 2018, Cloutierville

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NSU Alumni Association
has partnered with
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Alumni Directory 2018

The Northwestern State University Alumni Association knows how much our alumni like to reconnect with old friends and find new contacts. But we don't want to publish a new alumni directory without your updated information. So please help by responding when **Publishing Concepts Inc.** sends you mail, email, or calls.

